Guideline framed for awarding catering/ vending licences in Railways

*627. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines framed for awarding catering/vending licences and allotment of Railways Stalls at Railway Platforms etc in Railways indicating the quota, if any, allotted for SC/ST applicants;

(b) the number of applications received for the above purpose from the Western Railway particularly from Gujarat State during 1992-93 and 1993-94, indicating the number of SC/ST applicants; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard and how many stalls and vending licences were allotted to SC SI candidates?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIFF): (a) to (c) Allotment of catering/vending licences on Railways is being undertaken by the Zonal Railways in accordance with the guidelines laid down vide Ministry's letter No. 91 /TG. 111/600/15 dated 6.1.1992 whereby applications are called for and arc duly processed as per the prescribed procedure. Preference to SC ST candidates is allowed only in regard to allotment of catering/vending licences at small and wayside stations.

During 1992-93, 65 applications including 11 from SC/ST candidates were received by the Western Railway in response to notifications for allotment ol one Refreshment Room at New Bandra Terminus and one stall and two trolleys at Marwar Jn. SC/ST candidates were among the candidates not found suitable for the award of aforesaid licences During 1993-94 the Western Railway received 63 applications including 8 from SC/ST candidates in response to notification for allotment of catering vending licence for one stall and two trolleys at Gandhidham Station which an under finalisation.

Mobilisation of cost effective technologies

*628. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not so for finalised any modalities for mobilisation of cost-effective technologies for storage processing and marketing of agriculture produce;

(b) whether it is also a fact that nothing has been done by his Ministry for organisational restructuring or for the domestic market so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government contemplate to take or have taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (d) With a view to allow freedom of choice to the entrepreneurs for utilisation of cost effective technologies for storage, processing and marketing of agricultural products. Government has liberalised foreign technology acquisition by the entrepreneurs and is disseminating information on cost effective technologies through seminars, workshops, discussions and publication of literatures. Such dissemination is also done through State Nodal Agencies, Small Service Institute and Food Processing Training Centre. Ministry has initiated action for futher dissemination of information through electronic media.

Government is also encouraging/ assisting setting up of various post-harvest infrastructures such as sorting, grading, packing, pre-cooling, modified atmosphere storage, cold chains etc. for storage, transportation and marketing of food products in the domestic markets as well as for exports. Besides, Ministry is also operating a scheme for providing

assistance for marketing or products produced by small units through larger Houses under their brand names.

Attacks on Indian Community in kuwait

e629. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been a number of cases of attacks on Indian community particularly Hindus and Sikhs in Kuwait during the years 1992-93 and so far in 1994;

(b) what arc the details of each of such cases;

(c) number of persons killed and injured and their properties, houses and shops burnt/destroyed during the above period;

(d) the extent of loss suffered by the Indians in Kuwait;

(c) what action 'Government have so far taken at diplomatic level; and

(f) what steps Government have so far taken for the safety of life and property of Indians in Kuwait and other Gulf countries and in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (f) (1) Since October, 1993. Government have received reports of the following five incidents involving Sikh members of the Indian community in Kuwpit:—

(i) In October 1993, twenty Sikhs were detained by local police in Kuwait. They were later released. The reasons for their detention were not made known to the detainees.

(ii) On 3rd November, 1993 the dead body of an Indian national, Mr. Prithipal Singh was found by Khaitan Police in Kuwait.

(iii) On 23rd January, 1994 a car in which four Indian nationals were travelling was fired at on Amman Street in Salmia area in Kuwait resulting in the death of Mr. Manmohan Singh Anand and injury to two others.

(iv) A fire took place at AI Mutawa and Sahni Tyre Company belonging to Mr. Mohinder Singh Sahni in Sharq Industrial area.

(v) On 10th February, 1994 Shri Dcvindcr Singh Sachar was fired upon in his car on Mecca Street in Fahaheel area, Kuwait. However, Mr. Sachar escaped unhurt.

(2) The Indian Ambassador to Kuwait took up the matter at very senior levels with the Government of Kuwait including the Foreign Secretary, Secretary in the Ministry of Interior, First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, and the Crown Prince and Prime Minister. He conveyed the concern of the Indian community over the incidents and requested thorough investigations and measures to dispel the feeling of insecurity among the members of the Indian community. The Government of Kuwait expressed its own concern about the incidents and assured full investigations so that the culprits are traced and brought to justice. The Government of Kuwait also stated that it would take all steps to dispel any feeling of insecurity prevailing among the members of the Indian coummunity and adopt necessary measures so that such incidents do not recur.

(3) The Indian Ambassador has met leaders of the Indian community to inform them of the steps taken and has assured them of all necessary assistance.

(4) There have been no attacks on the members of Indian community in Kuwait after February 1994.

(5) The issue of safety of life and property of persons in foreign countries is primarily the concern of the host Governments. However, Government of lndia take up matters concerning the security of Indian nationals as